

National Land Use Planning Conference

Keeping Pace with Change

Portland, OR

March 2-6, 2009

To register: http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/planning/planning_conference/



Conference Themes

- A. [Focusing on Sustainable Resource Planning and Decision-Making](#)
- B. [Incorporating Decision Support Tools](#)
- C. [Addressing Long-Term Strategy](#)
- D. [Collaborating with Cooperators and Forming Partnerships](#)
- E. [Improving NEPA in Changing Environments](#)
- F. [Closing the Gaps –Training Opportunities on How to Get There from Here](#)

THEME A:

Focusing on Sustainable Resource Planning and Decision-Making

Strengthening Future Resource Management Plans and Plan Amendments: A Historical Evaluation of Protest Issues

This panel, composed of staff from the Division of Decision Support, Planning and NEPA as well as field staff who have been involved in protest resolution, will discuss common themes that have been raised by the public during the 30-day public protest period. The presentations will then summarize land use plan document content and process considerations in light of these reoccurring protest issues. We will also touch on the process for adapting or changing proposed decisions in response to protests that are upheld.

Emerging Legal Trends for Land Use Planning

Appeals and other legal challenges help provide a barometer for future trends in developing BLM Resource Management Plans and supporting NEPA documents. The panel, composed of DOI solicitors, will present relevant legal issues and case law involving the BLM and other federal public land management agencies.

Amending Land Use Plans with Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements

This panel presentation will provide an update, lessons learned, and a discussion of future implications and trends in implementing BLM's national Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements (PEIS) dealing with renewable and nonrenewable energy resources.

Program Guidance for Resource Management Plan Development – (3 Consecutive Sessions)

Three separate panel sessions will present the essential required BLM program guidance and coordination considerations that must be addressed in land use plans and amendments. The panels, composed of BLM resource specialists who have reviewed numerous preliminary RMPs, will discuss what must be included in these documents to address specific program requirements, clarify respective new or pending updates to program policy guidance since the Land Use Planning Handbook was completed, and highlight some common resource program issues that are often overlooked or have been inadequately addressed during RMP development.

Overcoming Challenges in the RMP/NEPA Process: Moderated Forum

Results of a recent survey on RMP lessons learned will be presented. Action items that could be implemented to improve on-going and future RMP/NEPA efforts will be explored. A panel composed of planners, NEPA specialists, and managers will help facilitate an informal group discussion by responding to questions and capturing ideas on how to address RMP/NEPA issues and challenges.

Strategies for Effective Socio-Economic Analysis in RMPs

This session will present strategies based on lessons learned for incorporating socio-economic analysis into RMPs, plan amendments, and supporting NEPA documents.

Managing Your RMP Project Successfully: BLM and Contractor Lessons Learned

This panel will discuss the successful development and completion of the Casper RMP, including the challenges and solutions for managing and contracting land use plans such as schedule and resource issues and supporting NEPA analyses.

RMP Budget and Project Schedule Development

Project budgets and schedules endure more internal scrutiny than probably any other portion of the resource management planning process. Budget and schedule may be the primary standards to determining on-going “success” of an RMP project. However, these two components often have more challenges affecting the ability to stay within the stated parameters.

THEME B:

Incorporating Decision Support Tools

BLM's Data Quality Tool and Decision Support Tools for Forest Management

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(2 presentations)

Presentation 1: *BLM's Data Quality Tool*

Improve your data quality using BLM's Data Quality Tool proactive approach. The Data Quality Tool will assist with profiling and cleansing your data, discovering duplicate and incomplete data.

Presentation 2: *Decision Support Tools for Forest Management*

This session will show conceptually how the Forest and Vegetation Information System (FORVIS) can facilitate the analysis of alternative future forest structure conditions on a large landscape over a twenty year period.

Decision Support Tools for Wildland Fire Management

(2 presentations)

Presentation 1: *Using LANDFIRE Products and Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) Methodologies*

This workshop session will describe how LANDFIRE products can be used to classify vegetation and develop appropriate LUP decisions and will also describe some of the limitations of the LANDFIRE Fire Regime Condition Class products.

Presentation 2: *Wildland Fire Decision Support Systems*

This workshop session will discuss linkages between land use plan decisions and the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) process - an interagency-scalable decision support system that utilizes appropriate fire behavior modeling, economic principles, and IT to support effective wildland fire decisions.

Decision Support Tools for Paleontological Resource Management

(2 presentations)

Presentation 1: *Paleontological Resource Management Consideration for Land Use Plans*

The potential for any given geographic area to contain significant fossil resources can be assessed by classifying geologic formations based on Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC). These two talks discuss the PFYC and its use as a decision support tool.

Presentation 2: *Potential fossil yield classification: A Tool for Land Use Planning*

During planning, BLM must identify area wide criteria or site-specific use restrictions to ensure those areas containing, or likely to contain, vertebrate or noteworthy occurrences of invertebrate or plant fossils and evaluate them prior to authorizing surface-disturbing

activities. The use of Potential Fossil Yield Classification can help BLM meet planning and management requirements for paleontological resources.

WOPR Decision Support Tools (1)

(3 presentations)

Presentation 1A: The Use of GIS in Support of Combined Regional Resource Management Plans and Environmental Impact Statements

A discussion of a GIS database that was created as a central repository of all data needed for a planning effort on a regional scale.

Presentation 1B: System Support and Technical Configuration of Virtual GIS Team Supporting Land Use Planning

The IT infrastructure and maintenance will be the topic for this presentation.

Presentation 1C: Data Management and Quality Control Techniques

This presentation explores the steps that the Western Oregon Plan Revision GIS team has taken to organize and utilize hundreds of datasets to provide managers with information for making decisions.

WOPR Decision Support Tools (2)

(3 presentations)

Presentation 2A: Creating Published Maps in Support of Resource Management Plan's EIS

This presentation will discuss the approach used for the finished cartography as well as the processes involved in creating printed maps.

Presentation 2B: Writing Scripts and Models in a Centralized Citrix Environment for the Western Oregon Resource Management Plans

This talk will present a firsthand look at writing scripts and models for a large project.

Presentation 2C: Using Grid-based, Focal Analyses to Support Cumulative Environmental Impact Assessments

This talk will discuss general methods for conducting and interpreting focal analyses, as well as their benefits and limitations.

WOPR Decision Support Tools (3)

(3 presentations)

Presentation 3A: Using ModelBuilder and Crystal Reports for Land Use Planning Analysis, Reporting, and Documentation

This presentation will highlight some of the benefits of using these applications, particularly in communicating analytical processes between GIS professionals and resource specialists.

Presentation 3B: Using ArcIMS to Support Internal Processes in Land Use Planning

This presentation will provide a hands-on experience report on the process and successes using ArcIMS.

Presentation 3C: Panel Discussion with WOPR Staff

GIS and ePlanning

(2 presentations)

Presentation 1: How and When to Use GIS within ePlanning

This presentation will give an overview of how and when to use GIS within ePlanning. The presentation will include a review of decision support tools that are being developed by Argonne National Laboratories.

Presentation 2: Geospatially Enabling Comments during the Planning Process

ePlanning enables the BLM to create geospatial documents allowing stakeholders to geospatially enable their comments during the planning process. This presentation will explore how to incorporate GeoPDFs, with markups, received from the public into spatial data and summarize the information in CommentWorks.

Remote Sensing as a Decision Support Tool

(2 presentations)

Presentation 1: From Pixels to Information: Remote Sensing Support for Natural Resource Planning

This talk will highlight some of the factors that should be considered to ensure any remote sensing acquisition generates the results needed to support resource planning activities. This includes for a range of activities from establishing baseline data for setting plan priorities to monitoring plan effectiveness to supporting adaptive management.

Presentation 2: Picture This: Acquiring detailed data in support of resource management and planning

This presentation will provide resource specialists with an overview of photogrammetry and examples of projects to which these technologies have been applied including initial field use of 3D technology.

Improving Business Practices and Decision Making: Automating the Workflow Processes

(4 presentations)

Presentation 1: The NEPA Database

Presentation 2: The Realty Database

Presentation 3: The Archaeology Database

Presentation 4: The Vegetation Monitoring Database

We will discuss the creation and utilization of four databases that, used in cooperation with each other, have increased efficiency and improved performance. These databases include: 1) The NEPA Database, 2) The Realty Database, 3) The Archaeology Database, and 4) The Vegetation Monitoring Database

Lessons Learned from the Carlsbad Field Office

(3 presentations)

Presentation 1: Improving Employee Health and Making Sound Decisions through the Integration of Technology: A Field Office Manager's Perspective

Presentation 2: The Preparation, Management and Use of GIS Planning within an Energy Pilot Office: Carlsbad, New Mexico

Presentation 3: Utilizing Localized Decision Support Tools for Land Use Planning: Streamlining the Planning Process

Many priorities need to be managed in an organization, but if the atmosphere is designed for the health of our organization, individuals and staff will have greater successes as we build future leaders for tomorrow. An integrated approach has improved our business efficiencies and decisions to a great extent in the Carlsbad Field Office, allowing all programs to work positively in their resource fields they are passionate about. Lessons learned from the Carlsbad Field Office will be presented. A panel discussion will follow.

THEME C:

Addressing Long-Term Strategy

Ecoregional Assessments

Ecoregional assessments can provide an efficient way to identify areas to target conservation and restoration efforts at the landscape scale. We will describe completed and ongoing ecoregional assessments conducted on BLM lands. We will then discuss how best to incorporate these and future assessments into the land use planning process.

Developing and Completing a Resource Management Plan Evaluation

Land use plan evaluations are a requirement of the BLM's planning cycle. This session will be an opportunity for participants to learn about different strategies for conducting a land use plan evaluation. Additionally, at the end there will be group participation to talk about lessons learned in past evaluations.

Reading between the Lines: Exploring the Relationships between the BLM's Environmental Management Systems, NEPA, and FLPMA Requirements

This presentation will provide an overview of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Environmental Management Systems (EMS) to the BLM's Planners and explore the relationship between EMS, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA).

Adaptive Management

Presenters will review adaptive management principles and current guidance, and will discuss how those principles can be applied in BLM land use planning and NEPA analysis. Successful examples will be highlighted.

Managing Geospatial Data for Resource Management Planning

Sound management of geospatial data and metadata is essential in RMP development. Prior to any major RMP effort, States and Districts should review their geospatial data sets and determine its adequacy, defensibility, and identify where major data gaps may exist.

Improving Consistency through ePlanning

The BLM is increasingly concerned with *consistency* in its planning and NEPA workload. This session will focus on some of the Bureau's long-term strategic goals related to consistency and how the ePlanning application can help the BLM reach those goals.

Developing an Implementation Strategy for a Land Use Plan

This session will provide an overview and panel discussion of the national implementation strategy for land use planning in the BLM. Participants will learn the details of the four-step process and to hear perspectives from Washington Office, State Office and Field Office workshop participants.

Implementation Strategy Mock Workshop

This session will consist of a mock Implementation Workshop, in which the presenters will facilitate an abbreviated version of the workshop given at the beginning of the Implementation Strategy process. Participants will gain an in-depth understanding of the four-step process and the work products.

THEME D:

Collaborating with Cooperators and Forming Partnerships

Using Collaborator Work Groups to Help Develop Alternatives

This session will demonstrate methods used by the Kremmling Field Office for engaging stakeholders during the development of plans and EISs to achieve greater stakeholder support for BLM activities. Topics include collaboration with cooperators via hands-on working groups, alternatives development, and public vestment.

Partnerships within the Bureau: Identifying Priority Data Themes through Collaboration

The purpose of this presentation is to provide the land use planning community with information regarding the BLM Geospatial Strategy and the planned 2009 collection of data themes to support land use planning in the BLM.

Collaboration on Decision Support Tools – PPSV & NatureServe VISTA

Presentation 1: Planning Priority Species and Vegetation

The Priority Species and Vegetation (PPSV) tool will be discussed as a mechanism for analyzing biological information and develop alternatives for key species, vegetation, and habitats during the land use planning process. The session will be a learning experience for participants on how to utilize this tool.

Presentation 2: NatureServe VISTA

The VISTA, a decision support tool that functions as an extension in ArcGIS, will be discussed through this presentation.

Collaboration from the Other Side of the Fence: *Counties*

This session will provide the county commissioner perspective on experiences collaborating (or not collaborating) with the BLM on land use planning and resource management issues. The management of resources on the Roan Plateau will be utilized as an example during the discussion.

Collaboration from the Other Side of the Fence: *States*

This session will provide the State perspective on experiences collaborating (or not collaborating) with the BLM on land use planning and resource management issues. The management of resources on the Roan Plateau will be utilized as an example during the discussion.

Collaboration from the Other Side of the Fence: *Tribes*

This session will provide the Tribal perspective on experiences collaborating (or not collaborating) with the BLM on land use planning and resource management issues. The management of resources on the Tent Rocks will be utilized as an example during the discussion.

TEAMS Enterprise Unit – Partnering with BLM on NEPA support

Forest Service enterprise teams are an option for completing your planning and individual resource specialist needs. The TEAMS Enterprise Unit has extensive experience in all NEPA processes and currently has previous BLM employees on staff.

Alternative Dispute Resolution-based Negotiations: Strategies for Prevention or Early Resolution of Protests

This session will present strategies for utilizing alternative dispute resolution techniques to both prevent protests to the planning process and resolve protests and pending litigation early.

The Economic Profile System: The New Standard for Assessing Baseline Economic Conditions of Affected Communities

This presentation will demonstrate the Economic Profile System (EPS), a user-friendly and graphically-driven tool for establishing socioeconomic baselines for any and every county in the country. Comparative in nature, this tool was designed to constitute the backbone of plan- and implementation-level socioeconomic analyses at the BLM. Developed over a number of years in cooperation with Headwaters Economics, EPS will be implemented at the BLM in 2009.

Win-Win: The Diversity Executive Orders Program – Partnerships with Minority Serving Institutions

This session will present information about the Diversity Executive Orders Program to educate participants on the opportunities to receive additional Washington Office funding related to five diversity focused executive orders. The session will highlight two successful projects conducted in partnerships between the BLM and Minority Serving Institutions.

To register: http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/planning/planning_conference0.html

THEME E:

Improving NEPA in Changing Environments

Differences between Programmatic and Project Level NEPA

This session explains some of the key differences between programmatic and project-level NEPA, and provides assistance to planners and decision-makers weighing programmatic versus site-specific NEPA documents.

Environmental Protection Agency's Review of BLM EISs

This session will explain why the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reviews the EISs of other federal agencies and how its rating system works. Included in this discussion will be a summary of common issues the EPA sees in BLM EISs.

Bureau Perspectives on Improving NEPA in a Changing Environment: A Moderated Forum

This moderated forum is a discussion between planners and managers regarding NEPA implementation with the purpose of providing constructive user feedback to the new NEPA Handbook and other initiatives such as the DOI regulations and NEPA training development.

Integrating Implementation and Planning Decisions in One Programmatic Document

This session evaluates challenges and solutions that arise when integrating "site-specific" implementation analysis and broader scale "planning level" analysis in one NEPA document. The presenters will use the Geothermal Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) as a case study for understanding the challenges and benefits for integrating these multiple scales of analysis in a single document.

Incorporating Climate Change into Planning and NEPA Documents

This presentation will provide guidance to BLM staff on how to address emerging climate change issues in NEPA documents. The panel will discuss methods by which climate science can be incorporated in the planning process, and attendees will be afforded the opportunity to discuss situations specific to their planning efforts.

Everything You Need to Know to Write a Defensible Decision

This session will highlight the key components of a defensible decision, assisting both planners and decision-makers in including necessary and relevant information in their final decision.

Proximate Causation and the No Action Alternative Trajectory in Cumulative Effects Analysis

This session will highlight some of the challenges associated with analyzing cumulative effects and provide attendees with a common-sense approach to address cumulative effects.

Change Management in ePlanning

This discussion-based, moderated panel session will share lessons learned from BLM planners experienced in using ePlanning in an interdisciplinary team setting. This session will provide an opportunity for planners to have a robust discussion about the practical changes that ePlanning might bring to the NEPA process.

Building a Strong Record

Presenters will focus on building a strong agency record that documents the BLM's decision-making process and supports the basis and rationale for its decision. The presentation will focus on the principles for compiling an Administrative Record, and provide guidance to assist BLM when compiling an Administrative Record.

THEME F:

Closing the Gaps –Training Opportunities on How to Get There from Here

Arbortext Refresher

This course demonstrates how Arbortext (the text editing tool of ePlanning) functions. We'll show you how to create a simple document and how it can be filtered to multiple media outputs via the click of a button.

Contracting for Land Use Plans

Land use planning is an integral part of public land management. In an effort to facilitate planning efforts while minimizing impacts to ongoing work, many field offices have elected to contract out land use plans and NEPA analyses. In this session, we will review general contracting concepts from preparing to contract through to administering the contract.

Effective Stakeholder Engagement

As public agencies face greater demands and declining budgets, it's necessary for them to work more effectively with internal and external stakeholders to achieve successful outcomes. This includes identification of stakeholders and convening effective public input processes and work groups, as well as reconciling competing interests and resolving conflicts.

ePlanning Refresher for RMP Team Leads

This course focuses on the new functionality of the ePlanning software. It is designed for RMP team leads/project managers who are familiar with the ePlanning application and have had training in the past two years.

ePlanning Training and Support: Managing Expectations

This session will provide an overview of what you can expect from ePlanning training and support in your office.

How to Effectively Manage Interdisciplinary Meetings

The goal of this course is to teach participants how to effectively manage a meeting from preparation, to meeting facilitation, to following up on meeting outcomes. It also addresses how to work through difficult meeting dynamics.

Introduction to CommentWorks

This course introduces you to CommentWorks, the public comment component of ePlanning. We will demonstrate how and what it does to help you review, parse, code/categorize, group, track, and summarize public comments.

Introduction to Effective Writing

This course is intended for BLM staff who write planning and NEPA documents. It provides a brief overview of setting up and managing the writing process, outlining documents and individual chapters, and writing logical paragraphs.

Mastering Public Meeting Facilitation

This course provides leading edge communication tools for making public meetings useful, informative, and mutually satisfying for all participants.

Mitigating Impacts through NEPA and Planning

This session will provide BLM planners, NEPA specialists, and subject matter experts with a framework to develop adequate, feasible, and effective measures to mitigate environmental impacts.

Planning for Priority Species and Vegetation

Come learn about a tool that can increase the quality and transparency of your RMP decisions and may even reduce your workload! The Planning for Priority Species and Vegetation (PPSV) tool supports the ability of BLM planning teams to analyze biological information and develop alternatives for key species, vegetation, and habitats.

Using Visual Resource Management as a Tool to Achieve Desirable Outcomes

This course provides a general overview on the purpose and policy of visual resource management (VRM), inventory of visual resources, factoring the inventory into the land use planning process, developing the land use plan's VRM sections, and implementing VRM decisions. This session will be an opportunity for participants to discuss challenging issues, seek clarification on policy and procedures, and ask other VRM-related questions.

Writing the Perfect EA/FONSI or EIS

The "perfect" EA or EIS will readily answer eight plain-language questions that a reasonable reader would want to have answered. The "perfect" FONSI will give reasons why the adverse environmental consequences disclosed in the EA will not be "significant." The

descriptor “perfect” refers to both content that is necessary as well as to content that is not necessary.

BLM Data Standards Development and Documentation

In order to improve BLM decisions, consistent, reliable, documented data is needed. BLM’s Data Standardization Process can help develop this data.